

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE ANDREWS BAND DIRECTOR AND BUS DRIVER

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer sympathy and prayer to the community of Andrews, as well as the families of Darin Johns and Marc Boswell, who were tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School Band to a Mustangs playoff game two weeks ago.

Darin Johns was the beloved band director for Andrews High School. In the weeks since the accident, we have seen an outpouring of testimonies about Mr. Johns from former students, friends, colleagues, and other band directors across the entire state of Texas.

As I learn more about the life that Mr. Johns led, I am continually encouraged by the quality of service that he gave to his community and the quantity of people whose lives he touched.

Mr. Johns was an active member of the Andrews community who dedicated his life to his faith, loved his wife Karen and family and friends deeply, and invested in his natural talent and deep love of music. He was a gifted musician who could play almost any instrument he touched. In his free time, he played in a Christian band and directed the church praise band as an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Mr. Johns deepest passion was encouraging the younger generations. For over 30 years, he taught others to love music as a high school band director. Over his impressive tenure, Mr. Johns led three different high school marching bands to the State Marching Contest. He lent all his time and energy to building up the dreams and talents of those around him.

I also want to recognize Marc Boswell, a humble and beloved Andrews public servant, who also tragically passed away in the bus crash.

Marc devoted his life to Andrews—as a high school math teacher, employee of the Andrews school district, involved community leader, and beloved friend, father, husband, and son. After retiring, Mr. Boswell stayed busy running stats for the Andrews football team, timing the swim team meets, and driving buses for Andrews ISD sports and extra-curricular activities.

He was known for his servant heart, incredible work ethic, infectious smiles, and deep love for his wife Carol and his children and grandchildren.

Andrews ISD and our communities across West Texas are mourning the loss of these two incredible men.

Camille and I are sending our support and prayers to Andrews, to the families of Mr. Johns and Mr. Boswell, as well as the loved ones of Nathan Haile, who was also killed in the crash.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE AWARENESS

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the current mental health crisis.

My home state of Arkansas has one of the highest proportions of individuals with trauma and PTSD in the nation. The COVID crisis has increased the mental health needs of Arkansans and all Americans.

Last year in Arkansas we tragically lost 583 of our neighbors, friends, and family members to suicide. Many personally know the pain of what it is like to lose a person to suicide.

Suicide rates in Arkansas are above the American average. Simultaneously, Arkansas also has a higher rate of adults with mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression.

There are more resources now than ever to provide support for anyone who needs it. I am proud to have supported funding for these resources earlier this Congress, including funding for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Mental health can be a tough topic to speak about, but it shouldn't be.

HONORING LEROY WARE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community servant, Mr. Leroy Ware.

Leroy Ware is the youngest of eleven children, born April 14, 1954 to Mr. Granville and Mrs. Myrtle Ware in the Browning Community. Leroy attended and graduated from Amanda Elzy High School. He was an honor student while still participating in the football program at school and helping the family cultivate and harvest crops.

After graduating from high school, Leroy attended Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi, and studied Business Administration. He participated in the Co-Op Program at Mississippi Valley State University and was assigned to Warner Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia. There, he trained to be a systems analyst. Leroy was later employed by the first African American Tax Assessor/Collector of Leflore County.

Leroy worked as a deputy assessor from 1985 until 1999. He then, successfully vied for and won the elected title of Tax Assessor in 1999. He still competently holds that position.

Leroy is married to Mrs. Earlean Davidson Ware. They have three children, Stephanie Davidson, Stephen Davidson, and Krystal

Austin. Leroy has lived by the lessons taught to him by his father: "Family is everything; You don't fight family; and, Always be there to lend a helping hand."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Leroy Ware for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSIONER ANDY KOSTIELNEY FOR HIS SERVICE TO HOOSIERS

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joseph County Commissioner Andy Kostielney for his outstanding service to Hoosiers in our community and beyond as he prepares to retire in 2022. For more than a decade, Commissioner Kostielney has been a dedicated, savvy, and servant-hearted leader.

As the District 1 Commissioner, he represents northern St. Joseph County, including Granger, all of Clay, German and Harris townships and parts of the far-north sides of South Bend and Mishawaka.

Throughout his tenure, Commissioner Kostielney—who currently serves as President of the Board of Commissioners—has worked tirelessly to deliver results for St. Joseph County Hoosiers. Since taking office in 2009, he has developed expertise on the issues that matter most to our community—creating jobs, stewarding resources, and building a brighter future for St. Joseph County.

Among his many achievements, Commissioner Kostielney spearheaded the South Shore double tracking project that will make it easier for those who work in the Chicago area to join our community and make a home in Indiana. He also has developed key public-private partnerships, including with the University of Notre Dame, to drive results for Hoosier families.

A lifelong Hoosier, Commissioner Kostielney has deep roots in this region. This is where he and his wife, Joy, have raised their beautiful family and served as active community members. In addition to his official duties in St. Joseph County, Commissioner Kostielney also serves as Assistant Manager of the Robinson Community Learning Center at the University of Notre Dame.

Previously, he served on the St. Joseph County Council from 2003 through 2006. As he prepares to retire, Commissioner Kostielney leaves an outstanding legacy that has contributed to the overall development, growth and modernization of St. Joseph County.

On behalf of the 2nd District of Indiana, it is my privilege to honor Commissioner Andy Kostielney and thank him for his years of service to our community. I am proud to call Commissioner Kostielney a dear friend, and I am

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